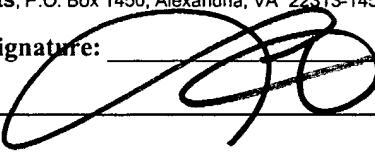


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Date: November 12, 2003

Signature:  (LILIA OLSEN)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Vicki L. CHANDLER, et al.

Serial No.: 09/972,805

Filing Date: October 5, 2001

For: **GENETIC FUNCTIONS REQUIRED
FOR GENE SILENCING IN MAIZE**

Examiner: A. D. Mehta

Group Art Unit: 1638

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 12, 2003 (PAPER 7)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 12, 2003, Paper No. 7, with a response due on October 12, 2003. A petition for a one month extension of time is enclosed to extend the time to extend the response to the Office Action to November 12, 2003. As such, this response is timely filed. Please enter the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS